

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03

INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /193 W
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P R 131021Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7693

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 12306

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR VS CB ENRG

SUBJECT: GVN-GKR OIL DRILLING DISPUTE

REF: PHNOM PENH 12246

1. I DISCUSSED THE OIL RIG SITUATION WITH PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 12. AS FOR THE DISPUTE ITSELF, PRIME MINISTER THOUGHT THAT IT HAD BEEN RESOLVED FOR THE MOMENT AND COULD NOW MOVE INTO CHANNEL OF DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. PRIME MINISTER WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENT ANTI-VIETNAMESE DEMONSTRATIONS LED BY STUDENT GROUPS WHICH COULD EASILY TURN INTO ANTI-GKR MANIFESTATIONS. HE SAID STUDENTS HAD ALREADY STARTED PLANNING FOR DEMONSTRATIONS TO TAKE PLACE ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 13 PROBABLY TO BE DIRECTED INITIALLY AGAINST THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY. LONG BORET SAID HE HAD GIVEN STRUCT
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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE OF THE

CAPITAL CITY'S SECURITY TO BE FIRM WITH DEMONSTRATORS
AND NOT TO PERMIT ANY DAMAGE TO SOUTH VIETNAMESE
PROPERTY OR PERSONNEL.

2. IN COVERSATION EVENING SEPTEMBER 12 (SUBSEQUENT
TO THE ONE REPORTED REFTEL) FRENCH CHARGE PAVEC SAID
THAT THE GLOMAR OIL RIG HAD STOPPED ITS DRILLING AT THE
DISPUTED SITE AT A DEPTH OF 2,000 FEET, WHEREAS IT HAD
BEEN PLANNED TO GO DOWN TO 6,000 FEET. HE SAID THIS
INFORMATION SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD BECAUSE IF PUBLICIZED
IT WOULD CONFIRM THE FACT THAT THE GVN HAD SUCCEEDED IN
FORCING THE GKR TO CEASE IT S PROSPECTING IN THE DISPUTED
AREA. THE GKR IS NOW UNDER THE ILLUSION THAT THE RIG
COMPLETED ITS PLANNED EXPLORATION IN THE DISPUTED AREA
PRIOR TO BEING MOVED ELSEWHERE.

3. THE GKR CABINET AND SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS HAVE
NOT HELPED THE SITUATION BY THEIR WIDELY-NOTED ACTION OF
HAVING RUDELY BOYCOTTED THE SOUTH VIET-NAM AMBASSADOR'S
BANQUET CELEBRATING HIS DAUGHTER'S MARRAGE LAST
EVENING. THE AMBASSADOR IS THE DEAN OF THE CORPS AND
HAS BEEN WORKING VERY HARD TO RESOLVE THIS DISPUTE
PEACEFULLY, TO THE EXTENT THAT HE HAS DISPLEASED
HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. HE DESERVES BETTER TREATMENT
THAN HE WAS GIVEN BY KHMER OFFICIALDOM IN PHNOM PENH.
KEELEY

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NNN

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